

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 INT-05 COME-00 SAL-01 DLOS-06

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DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/FA:LMNAKATSU:CMC

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NMFS - CBLONDIN

EA/J - SECTON

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P 161608Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: STUDY ON JAPANESE TANNER CRAB MARKET

REF: A. STATE 175317

1. NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, NOAA, COMMERCE, IS PLANNING TO SEND TO JAPAN, TAKASHI (TAK) MIYAHARA, ON/ ABOUT 20 JULY TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE JAPANESE TANNER CRAB MARKET. MIYAHARA PLANS TO SPEND APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS IN JAPAN. SEPTTEL WILL FOLLOW GIVING HIS ETA.

2. MIYAHARA TRIP PROMPTED BY INQUIRY FROM KODIAK FISHING INDUSTRY FOR INFORMATION ON JAPANESE TANNER CRAB MARKETING PRACTICES. INDUSTRY IS CHARGING THAT CRAB PROCESSORS IN KODIAK, MANY OF WHICH ARE EITHER JAPANESE OWNED OR HAVE INVESTMENT TIES WITH JAPAN, ARE IN COLLUSION WITH JAPANESE COMPANIES OPERATING CRAB FLEETS IN EASTERN BERING SEA TO KEEP PRICES PAID TO U.S. FISHERMEN FOR TANNER CRAB ARTIFICALLY LOW TO DISCOURAGE U.S. EXPANSION INTO FISHERY.

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3. TO CLEAR UP AIR, NMFS HAS DECIDED TO SEND MIYAHARA WHO IS EXPERT IN CRAB BIOLOGY, DISTRIBUTION, FISHING AND MARKETING PRACTICES. HE IS WELL KNOWN IN JFA AND IN JAPANESE INDUSTRY AND HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH.

4. DEPT FEELS SELECTION OF MIYAHARA EXCELLENT CHOICE. POST IS REQUESTED TO EXTEND FULLEST COOPERATION AND IF POSSIBLE, ASSIGN YOSHIO NASAKA TO ASSIST MIYAHARA. STUDY MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT US/JAPAN FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS.

5. POST IS ALSO REQUESTED NOT TO TAKE ANY ACTION ON REFTTEL SINCE MIYAHARA WILL NOW CONDUCT MARKET STUDY. KISSINGER

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